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Message Text

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70
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /078 W
---------- 109813
R 051209Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4130
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5186

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO
SUBJ: REFUGEES PREEMPT DEMONSTRATION

REF: LISBON 5079 DTG 021341Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: ANGOLAN REFUGEES JOINED DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF 24 STAFF MEMBERS PURGED FROM "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" AND PRECIPITATED VIOLENCE RESULTING IN SEVERAL INJURIES. INCIDENT IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF GROWING IMPORTANCE OF REFUGEES AS ANTI-COMMUNIST POLITICAL FORCE. END SUMMARY

1. ESTIMATED THREE THOUSAND PERSONS PARTICIPATED IN SEPT 4 DEMONSTRATION CALLED BY PPD TO PROTEST PURGING OF 24 "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" (DN) JOURNALISTS AT OODS WITH PAPER'S COMMUNIST-LINING EDITORIAL BOARD. AFTER PEACEFULLY CHANTING ANTI-COMMUNIST
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SLOGANS IN FRONT OF DN BUILDING,GUARDED BY MILITARY POLICE AND

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RALIS TROOPS, DEMONSTRATORS HAD BEGUN TO DISPERESE WHEN SEVERAL HUNDRED ANGOLAN REFUGEES ARRIVED ON SCENE. REFUGEES ATTEMPTED TO DISARM JEEPFUL OF MILITARY POLICE WHO RESPONDED BY FIRING WARNING SHOTS. SHOTS HIT UPPER STORY WINDOWS IN ADJACENT BUILDINGS AND SEVERAL PERSONS INJURED BY FALLING GLASS. CROWD DISPERSED MOMENTARILY BUT SWARMED BACK TO SET UP PICKET LINES AROUND DN WHICH DELAYED PRINTING OF TODAY'S EDITION. CROWD FINALLY DISPERSED ABOUT 9:00 A.M. THIS MORNING.

2. SHORTLY AFTER TROOPS FIRED WARNING SHOTS, GROUP OF ABOUT 100 REFUGEES ASSEMBLED IN FRONT OF EMBASSY, REMAINING FOR AN HOUR CHANTING "VIVA AMERICA" AND CALLING FOR USG AID TO REFUGEES.

3. SPECTACULAR BLOCKING OF TAGUS BRIDGE AND OCCUPATION OF THE BANK OF ANGOLA (REFTEL) WERE FIRST TWO EXAMPLES OF REFUGEE POLITICAL ACTION. THE DN AFFAIR IS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF GROWING IMPORTANCE OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES AS ANTI-COMMUNIST POLITICAL FORCE IN PORTUGAL. MORE INCIDENTS CAN BE EXPECTED.
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